

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

1. – 26. (Canceled)

27. **(Currently Amended)** ~~An allograft~~ **A vascular graft suitable for implantation in an adult human**, comprising:

a preserved vessel produced from a vessel isolated from a human umbilical cord **or human placenta**, wherein the vessel is directly lyophilized without chemical denaturing, said preserved vessel exhibiting low antigenicity, high patency, and integrity when implanted **as a vascular graft in an adult human without a stent or supporting mesh frame work**, said preserved vessel being substantially free of fetal blood; and

a removable stent **to facilitate handling of the preserved vessel, wherein the removable stent is** located in a lumen of said preserved vessel **prior to implantation**.

28. **(Currently Amended)** The allograft **vascular graft** of claim 27, in which said preserved vessel comprises a vein.

29. **(Currently Amended)** The allograft **vascular graft** of claim 27 in which said preserved vessel comprises an artery.

30. **(Currently Amended)** The allograft **vascular graft** of claim 27 in which said preserved vessel and stent ~~further include~~ **are contained in** a canister under vacuum ~~for containing said preserved vessel and stent~~.

31. **(Currently Amended)** The allograft **vascular graft** of claim 27 in which said preserved vessel is free of fetal blood by way of irrigation.

32. **(Currently Amended)** The allograft **vascular graft** of claim 27 in which said preserved vessel comprises a straight vessel segment.

33. **(Currently Amended)** The allograft vascular graft of claim 27 in which said preserved vessel comprises a branching vessel segment.

34. **(Currently Amended)** The allograft vascular graft of claim 31 in which said preserved vessel free of fetal blood by irrigation is free of fetal blood through irrigation with heparin solution.

35. **(Currently Amended)** The allograft vascular graft of claim 27 in which said stent is a nylon stent.

36. **(Currently Amended)** The allograft vascular graft of claim 27 in which said preserved vessel possesses a plurality of branches and further includes a plurality of removable stents each located in a lumen of each of said plurality of branches of said preserved vessel prior to implantation, wherein the removable stents facilitate handling of the preserved vessel.

37. **(Currently Amended)** The allograft vascular graft of claim 36 in which said plurality of stents comprise nylon stents.

38. **(Currently Amended)** A preserved vessel suitable for implantation as a vascular graft in an adult human produced by direct lyophilization without chemical denaturing of a vessel isolated from a human umbilical cord or human placenta, wherein the preserved vessel exhibits low antigenicity, high patency, and integrity when implanted as a vascular graft in an adult human without a stent or supporting mesh framework, said preserved vessel being substantially free of fetal blood.

39. (Original) The preserved vessel of claim 38 in which said preserved vessel comprises a vein or an artery.

40. (Original) The preserved vessel of claim 38 in which said preserved vessel is provided in a canister under vacuum.

41. (Original) The preserved vessel of claim 38 in which said preserved vessel comprises a straight vessel segment or a branching vessel segment.

42. (Original) The preserved vessel of claim 38 in which fetal blood is removed from the vessel by irrigation.

43. (Original) The preserved vessel of claim 42 in which irrigation is performed with a heparin solution.

44. **(Currently Amended)** The preserved vessel of claim 38 further comprising a removable stent to facilitate handling of the preserved vessel, wherein the removable stent is in a lumen of said preserved vessel prior to implantation.

45. (Original) The preserved vessel of claim 44 in which said stent is a nylon stent.

46. **(Currently Amended)** The preserved vessel of claim 38 in which said preserved vessel possesses a plurality of branches and further includes a plurality of removable stents each located in a lumen of each of said plurality of branches of said preserved vessel prior to implantation, wherein the removable stents facilitate handling of the preserved vessel.

47. **(Currently Amended)** The preserved vessel of claim 46 in which said plurality of removable stents comprise nylon stents.

48. **(Withdrawn) (Currently Amended)** A method for implanting a vessel vascular graft, the method comprising:

rehydrating the preserved vessel of claim 38 ~~a preserved vessel to produce a rehydrated vessel for implantation, the preserved vessel being produced from a vessel isolated from a human umbilical cord or placenta, wherein the vessel is directly lyophilized without chemical denaturing, said preserved vessel being substantially free of fetal blood; and~~

implanting the rehydrated vessel into a recipient site in a human patient;

~~wherein said implanting provides a vessel allograft having low antigenicity, high patency, and integrity.~~

49. **(Withdrawn) (Currently Amended)** The method of claim 48, wherein the preserved vessel has a removable stent located in a lumen of said preserved vessel prior to implantation, wherein the removable stent facilitates handling of the preserved vessel, and wherein the method further comprises removing said removable stent ~~is removed~~ prior to said implanting.

50. **(New)** The vascular graft of claim 27, wherein the preserved vessel exhibits low antigenicity, high patency, and integrity when implanted as an arterial graft in an adult human.

51. **(New)** The preserved vessel of claim 39, wherein the preserved vessel exhibits low antigenicity, high patency, and integrity when implanted as an arterial graft in an adult human.

52. **(New)** A vascular graft suitable for implantation in an adult human, consisting essentially of:
a preserved vessel produced from a vessel isolated from a human umbilical cord or human placenta, wherein the vessel is lyophilized without chemical denaturing, said preserved vessel exhibiting low antigenicity, high patency, and integrity when implanted as a vascular graft in an adult human without a stent or supporting mesh framework, said preserved vessel being substantially free of fetal blood.

53. **(New)** The preserved vessel of claim 52, wherein a removable stent is positioned in a lumen of the preserved vessel prior to implantation to facilitate handling of the preserved vessel.

54. **(New)** A containerized preserved vessel comprising:
a canister; and
a preserved vessel contained in the canister, the preserved vessel having a removable stent positioned in a lumen of the preserved vessel prior to implantation to facilitate handling of the preserved vessel,

wherein the preserved vessel is produced from a vessel isolated from a human umbilical cord or human placenta, wherein the vessel is lyophilized without chemical denaturing, said preserved vessel

exhibiting low antigenicity, high patency, and integrity when implanted as a vascular graft in an adult human without a stent or supporting mesh framework, said preserved vessel being substantially free of fetal blood; and

wherein the canister is capable of maintaining the preserved vessel in a sterile environment.

55. **(New)** The composition of claim 54, wherein the canister comprises a vacuum seal to maintain storage of the preserved vessel under vacuum.

56. **(New)** A containerized preserved vessel consisting essentially of:

a canister; and

a preserved vessel contained in the canister, the preserved vessel having a removable stent positioned in a lumen of the preserved vessel prior to implantation to facilitate handling of the preserved vessel,

wherein the preserved vessel is produced from a vessel isolated from a human umbilical cord or human placenta, wherein the vessel is lyophilized without chemical denaturing, said preserved vessel exhibiting low antigenicity, high patency, and integrity when implanted as a vascular graft in an adult human without a stent or supporting mesh framework, said preserved vessel being substantially free of fetal blood; and

wherein the canister is capable of maintaining the preserved vessel in a sterile environment.

57. **(New)** The composition of claim 57, wherein the canister comprises a vacuum seal to maintain storage of the preserved vessel under vacuum.